

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:10,940

2

00:00:10,940 --> 00:00:15,170

Today I would like to bring  
to your attention what

3

00:00:15,170 --> 00:00:21,140

happened in Europe for  
the small children who

4

00:00:21,140 --> 00:00:28,670

played on the sidewalks through  
all Europe, jumped rope.

5

00:00:28,670 --> 00:00:33,470

A decree was issued  
in Germany, in Berlin,

6

00:00:33,470 --> 00:00:38,180

that those children have  
no right to grow up.

7

00:00:38,180 --> 00:00:43,760

And they were picked  
up from the towns,

8

00:00:43,760 --> 00:00:46,790

from the most remote  
areas, wherever

9

00:00:46,790 --> 00:00:50,480

there was a Jewish  
family, and those children

10

00:00:50,480 --> 00:00:51,860

were all destroyed.

11

00:00:51,860 --> 00:00:56,750

Some went with their parents,  
some were hidden by parents

12

00:00:56,750 --> 00:01:02,000  
and later came out or  
they were given out

13

00:01:02,000 --> 00:01:06,180  
when they were hidden  
by some Gentile people

14

00:01:06,180 --> 00:01:08,120  
and they couldn't keep them.

15

00:01:08,120 --> 00:01:11,240  
They were given  
back to the ghettos

16

00:01:11,240 --> 00:01:15,120  
where they were destroyed.

17

00:01:15,120 --> 00:01:19,490  
Now, when I came to  
Plaszow the first day,

18

00:01:19,490 --> 00:01:29,210  
they did put me in a group where  
we were digging a huge grave.

19

00:01:29,210 --> 00:01:33,410  
And the Krakow ghetto  
was at that time cleared.

20

00:01:33,410 --> 00:01:39,800  
And they brought in trucks  
with children from infant

21

00:01:39,800 --> 00:01:44,600  
to 12 years old and  
they were all killed.

22

00:01:44,600 --> 00:01:47,000  
And one group was  
digging further,

23

00:01:47,000 --> 00:01:52,190  
about 100 feet long grave  
and about 50 feet wide.

24  
00:01:52,190 --> 00:01:53,650  
The children were digging?

25  
00:01:53,650 --> 00:01:57,290  
No, the group where I belonged.

26  
00:01:57,290 --> 00:01:59,360  
And the children, when  
they brought them in,

27  
00:01:59,360 --> 00:02:04,310  
they were shot right  
into that grave.

28  
00:02:04,310 --> 00:02:10,610  
And of course one group was  
bringing with wheelbarrows

29  
00:02:10,610 --> 00:02:14,360  
some chlorine powder  
and putting on

30  
00:02:14,360 --> 00:02:17,690  
because it was such a  
tremendous amount of bodies

31  
00:02:17,690 --> 00:02:19,310  
in those graves and  
they were afraid

32  
00:02:19,310 --> 00:02:24,710  
that this might  
start smelling out.

33  
00:02:24,710 --> 00:02:35,220  
So one group was wheeling with  
a wheelbarrow some powder,

34  
00:02:35,220 --> 00:02:39,330

chlorine powder, and  
spreading with a shovel over,

35  
00:02:39,330 --> 00:02:42,930  
one group was digging  
further, and one group

36  
00:02:42,930 --> 00:02:47,100  
was just covering up the  
ones which they [? shoot. ?]

37  
00:02:47,100 --> 00:02:51,450  
A little girl, a  
beautiful blonde girl,

38  
00:02:51,450 --> 00:02:59,860  
sat down in the grave dressed  
in an Eskimo white fur coat,

39  
00:02:59,860 --> 00:03:04,290  
was all bloody, and asked for a  
little bit of water, and asked,

40  
00:03:04,290 --> 00:03:06,390  
"Water, water."

41  
00:03:06,390 --> 00:03:12,600  
But as you know, the heart  
was so like a stone, numb,

42  
00:03:12,600 --> 00:03:18,520  
you wouldn't dare go and give  
that child a little water.

43  
00:03:18,520 --> 00:03:20,820  
And this child  
swallowed so much blood

44  
00:03:20,820 --> 00:03:22,950  
because it was shot  
through the neck,

45  
00:03:22,950 --> 00:03:26,250

and then it started  
to vomit so terribly.

46  
00:03:26,250 --> 00:03:30,540  
And then it laid down and it  
says, "Mother, turn me around,

47  
00:03:30,540 --> 00:03:31,335  
turn me around."

48  
00:03:31,335 --> 00:03:34,000

49  
00:03:34,000 --> 00:03:35,590  
Her mother was still alive?

50  
00:03:35,590 --> 00:03:36,090  
Pardon?

51  
00:03:36,090 --> 00:03:37,470  
The mother was still alive?

52  
00:03:37,470 --> 00:03:38,520  
No, no.

53  
00:03:38,520 --> 00:03:41,280  
This child didn't know  
what happened to it.

54  
00:03:41,280 --> 00:03:43,680  
It was half shot, half dead.

55  
00:03:43,680 --> 00:03:48,540  
It was after it was shot.

56  
00:03:48,540 --> 00:03:55,830  
And this child sat down in the  
grave between all the corpses

57  
00:03:55,830 --> 00:04:00,480  
and asked for water because  
it swallowed so much blood

58  
00:04:00,480 --> 00:04:01,580  
and asked for water.

59  
00:04:01,580 --> 00:04:03,540  
It was still alive.

60  
00:04:03,540 --> 00:04:05,490  
There was no mothers  
there, just children

61  
00:04:05,490 --> 00:04:09,050  
brought from the Krakow ghetto.

62  
00:04:09,050 --> 00:04:13,560  
And of course you wouldn't  
dare move with water

63  
00:04:13,560 --> 00:04:15,010  
because you would be in.

64  
00:04:15,010 --> 00:04:17,640  
As a matter of fact,  
there were cases

65  
00:04:17,640 --> 00:04:21,029  
where the Germans,  
the original group who

66  
00:04:21,029 --> 00:04:27,450  
was digging and  
burying those corpses,

67  
00:04:27,450 --> 00:04:30,600  
they shot them when  
they finished the work.

68  
00:04:30,600 --> 00:04:32,640  
They were shot because  
they didn't want

69  
00:04:32,640 --> 00:04:36,340

any witnesses to remain alive.

70

00:04:36,340 --> 00:04:42,630

So thee were cases like this,  
and we were all shivering.

71

00:04:42,630 --> 00:04:46,780

We didn't know what is  
going to happen to us.

72

00:04:46,780 --> 00:04:50,310

So this could this little  
girl laid down and asked

73

00:04:50,310 --> 00:04:51,660

to be turned around.

74

00:04:51,660 --> 00:04:53,400

What happened to  
it, I don't know.

75

00:04:53,400 --> 00:04:59,310

It was probably covered  
alive with a chlorine powder

76

00:04:59,310 --> 00:05:03,040

and covered later alive.

77

00:05:03,040 --> 00:05:08,670

And I'm sure because they didn't  
give another shot to that girl

78

00:05:08,670 --> 00:05:13,440

because they were too  
busy going and shooting.

79

00:05:13,440 --> 00:05:18,230

And so things like this  
you just cannot forget.

80

00:05:18,230 --> 00:05:23,350

It is 45 years after the war and  
this is embedded in your mind.

81  
00:05:23,350 --> 00:05:27,240  
And you no matter what  
you are thinking of,

82  
00:05:27,240 --> 00:05:30,000  
this thing doesn't go  
out from your mind.

83  
00:05:30,000 --> 00:05:31,990  
You must remember that.

84  
00:05:31,990 --> 00:05:40,440  
And so this is the way this  
highly educated nation became

85  
00:05:40,440 --> 00:05:46,290  
such tremendous, such  
horrible, murderous criminals

86  
00:05:46,290 --> 00:05:51,020  
without any human feeling,  
without any feeling

87  
00:05:51,020 --> 00:05:53,360  
for a child, for a crying child.

88  
00:05:53,360 --> 00:05:58,250  
And it's impossible  
to comprehend.

89  
00:05:58,250 --> 00:06:06,150  
The crime was so horrendous in  
such a magnitude that a human

90  
00:06:06,150 --> 00:06:08,330  
brain cannot comprehend that.

91  
00:06:08,330 --> 00:06:18,960  
And this is where the SS, they  
were the ones who the more they

92



00:06:18,960 --> 00:06:24,310  
were shooting and  
the more they were,

93  
00:06:24,310 --> 00:06:28,400  
let's say, fast  
on the draw, they

94  
00:06:28,400 --> 00:06:30,500  
advanced in the  
concentration camps.

95  
00:06:30,500 --> 00:06:33,660  
Did you ever witness  
any situation

96  
00:06:33,660 --> 00:06:37,290  
where there was some  
mercy shown by the Germans

97  
00:06:37,290 --> 00:06:39,750  
or some feeling or  
some compassion?

98  
00:06:39,750 --> 00:06:40,830  
No.

99  
00:06:40,830 --> 00:06:41,580  
No.

100  
00:06:41,580 --> 00:06:42,870  
No, I did not.

101  
00:06:42,870 --> 00:06:47,340  
I did not because, as a matter  
of fact, as you know by now,

102  
00:06:47,340 --> 00:06:54,900  
I have mentioned the last  
time that a German, one SS,

103  
00:06:54,900 --> 00:06:57,780  
I got with him so

buddy buddy, and he's

104

00:06:57,780 --> 00:07:00,090

the one who took me  
out once from a group

105

00:07:00,090 --> 00:07:03,150

to be shot because he needed me.

106

00:07:03,150 --> 00:07:04,470

And he took me out.

107

00:07:04,470 --> 00:07:10,920

And I ask him, "Tell  
me, are you married?"

108

00:07:10,920 --> 00:07:11,880

Do you have a wife?"

109

00:07:11,880 --> 00:07:13,680

He says, "Yes, I have a wife."

110

00:07:13,680 --> 00:07:15,610

and I said to him, "Do  
you have children?"

111

00:07:15,610 --> 00:07:17,070

"Yes, I have children, too."

112

00:07:17,070 --> 00:07:22,430

So I ask him, "How can you  
shoot children here like that?"

113

00:07:22,430 --> 00:07:26,650

And he said, "I have  
[GERMAN],, an order."

114

00:07:26,650 --> 00:07:29,850

And he says, "If I would get  
an order to shoot my mother,

115

00:07:29,850 --> 00:07:31,775

I would shoot her."

116

00:07:31,775 --> 00:07:35,790

And that was the end of our  
discussion with the German.

117

00:07:35,790 --> 00:07:41,190

And so I'm going further  
with was this type of life.

118

00:07:41,190 --> 00:07:51,870

And of course, you were at  
a tension always, so numb.

119

00:07:51,870 --> 00:07:56,490

A child, a human being,  
were laying or something,

120

00:07:56,490 --> 00:08:00,060

you didn't even bother to look  
at him if he's alive or dead.

121

00:08:00,060 --> 00:08:04,140

This is the way the  
situation brought you

122

00:08:04,140 --> 00:08:07,510

to it, the conditions.

123

00:08:07,510 --> 00:08:13,260

And then I was once  
in another camp

124

00:08:13,260 --> 00:08:16,260

where other things happened.

125

00:08:16,260 --> 00:08:19,350

For instance, for  
a small thing, they

126

00:08:19,350 --> 00:08:25,130

took out an older man who  
was maybe in the 50s or so,

127  
00:08:25,130 --> 00:08:27,510  
and they took him out to be  
shot right in the first thing

128  
00:08:27,510 --> 00:08:28,135  
in the morning.

129  
00:08:28,135 --> 00:08:31,200  
And the son was  
standing in the lines.

130  
00:08:31,200 --> 00:08:37,950  
And I don't know  
how he could do it,

131  
00:08:37,950 --> 00:08:41,400  
but he gripped the gentleman by  
the hand, "This is my father,"

132  
00:08:41,400 --> 00:08:45,370  
he said, "This is my father."

133  
00:08:45,370 --> 00:08:49,840  
And that boy was  
hung by the hands

134  
00:08:49,840 --> 00:08:53,200  
tied in the back,  
hung by the hands

135  
00:08:53,200 --> 00:08:55,990  
for a whole day on that tree.

136  
00:08:55,990 --> 00:08:58,810  
It was a terrible, terrible  
thing to [INAUDIBLE]..

137  
00:08:58,810 --> 00:09:03,250  
We went to work and he was  
terribly moaning on that tree.

138

00:09:03,250 --> 00:09:06,990

139

00:09:06,990 --> 00:09:12,550

The situation to look at  
him was just impossible.

140

00:09:12,550 --> 00:09:16,090

The mucus was coming out  
from his nose and mouth.

141

00:09:16,090 --> 00:09:20,260

A whole day hanging by  
the hands from the back.

142

00:09:20,260 --> 00:09:22,860

Finally, we all  
prayed, we all hoped

143

00:09:22,860 --> 00:09:24,860

that they're going to  
shoot him, that it's going

144

00:09:24,860 --> 00:09:27,280

to be the end of his suffering.

145

00:09:27,280 --> 00:09:28,900

And they let him  
hang a whole day

146

00:09:28,900 --> 00:09:33,580

just because he gripped  
the German by the hand,

147

00:09:33,580 --> 00:09:36,370

he said, this is my  
father, not to shoot him.

148

00:09:36,370 --> 00:09:38,080

How old was the boy?

149

00:09:38,080 --> 00:09:42,400

Well, he was probably

20, 19, 20 years old.

150

00:09:42,400 --> 00:09:46,240

This is lost in the camp where  
there were no younger ones.

151

00:09:46,240 --> 00:09:51,430

They were, let's say,  
from 18 to 28, 25.

152

00:09:51,430 --> 00:09:55,870

This is the groups what  
they left for work, if they

153

00:09:55,870 --> 00:09:57,120

left for work, some of then.

154

00:09:57,120 --> 00:09:59,030

So when they  
brought children in,

155

00:09:59,030 --> 00:10:01,200

they killed them immediately.

156

00:10:01,200 --> 00:10:02,290

Immediately.

157

00:10:02,290 --> 00:10:08,800

The children were crying  
terribly, and they knew.

158

00:10:08,800 --> 00:10:11,980

They the children  
knew what is happening

159

00:10:11,980 --> 00:10:13,700

and what is going  
to happen to them.

160

00:10:13,700 --> 00:10:17,500

They were crying and I  
still hear the cries today.

161

00:10:17,500 --> 00:10:19,760

I still hear them,  
how they'd cry,

162

00:10:19,760 --> 00:10:24,130

and their hands up and  
"Mommy, Mommy, Mommy."

163

00:10:24,130 --> 00:10:28,690

And this is not just a  
story where you can forget.

164

00:10:28,690 --> 00:10:30,430

This is not a thing  
you can forget.

165

00:10:30,430 --> 00:10:35,120

No matter if you live to 80,  
you will still remember this.

166

00:10:35,120 --> 00:10:44,500

And so this is the way,  
how sadistic they were.

167

00:10:44,500 --> 00:10:50,970

They didn't have any feeling for  
a human being or for a child.

168

00:10:50,970 --> 00:10:54,550

As I told you, he said  
that he has [GERMAN],,

169

00:10:54,550 --> 00:10:59,650

he has an order to shoot, and  
that is what he was doing.

170

00:10:59,650 --> 00:11:03,670

171

00:11:03,670 --> 00:11:10,260

Then once, they brought  
in a woman with a child.

172

00:11:10,260 --> 00:11:15,760

They caught her somewhere  
outside of Krakow,

173

00:11:15,760 --> 00:11:17,590

either on a train or so.

174

00:11:17,590 --> 00:11:23,930

They brought her in and  
she said she is not Jewish.

175

00:11:23,930 --> 00:11:28,750

She was crossing herself,  
she says, "I am not Jewish,"

176

00:11:28,750 --> 00:11:31,630

and she was praying and  
kneeling and praying.

177

00:11:31,630 --> 00:11:36,760

And this SS didn't  
move a finger.

178

00:11:36,760 --> 00:11:39,190

He went over, and  
this little girl

179

00:11:39,190 --> 00:11:42,100

was holding on to the  
mother, it was crying,

180

00:11:42,100 --> 00:11:45,790

and he took her  
over to that valley

181

00:11:45,790 --> 00:11:48,440

there where they were shooting  
people, and they shot her.

182

00:11:48,440 --> 00:11:52,730

And she was crying and  
saying, "I am not Jewish."



183

00:11:52,730 --> 00:11:55,790

And in German, [GERMAN].

184

00:11:55,790 --> 00:12:00,570

And they proved that she  
is Jewish and that's it,

185

00:12:00,570 --> 00:12:05,610

and that's their  
way of destroying.

186

00:12:05,610 --> 00:12:09,490

As a matter of fact, those who  
were outside, they were first.

187

00:12:09,490 --> 00:12:11,505

They destroyed them  
faster than those

188

00:12:11,505 --> 00:12:13,720

who were inside in  
the concentration camp

189

00:12:13,720 --> 00:12:17,200

because they were still  
afraid that the people who

190

00:12:17,200 --> 00:12:21,040

were outside of the camp  
have some kind of contact

191

00:12:21,040 --> 00:12:23,870

with the underground,  
with the partisans.

192

00:12:23,870 --> 00:12:28,390

And they were very, very  
much afraid of that,

193

00:12:28,390 --> 00:12:31,090

and that's why they  
never let somebody

194

00:12:31,090 --> 00:12:35,620

who worked outside went  
out to work every day.

195

00:12:35,620 --> 00:12:38,610

They were the first  
thing to be shot.

196

00:12:38,610 --> 00:12:42,550

197

00:12:42,550 --> 00:12:49,320

And so this is the way  
you have to understand.

198

00:12:49,320 --> 00:12:53,710

The conditions, what they  
created through five years,

199

00:12:53,710 --> 00:12:57,820

were not human conditions.

200

00:12:57,820 --> 00:13:01,660

People ask me, how  
could you live?

201

00:13:01,660 --> 00:13:03,610

And I said, you couldn't live.

202

00:13:03,610 --> 00:13:07,830

That's why millions perished,  
because they couldn't live.

203

00:13:07,830 --> 00:13:14,080

All this time, I am survived  
from 46 people, the closest

204

00:13:14,080 --> 00:13:16,600

family, uncles and cousins.

205

00:13:16,600 --> 00:13:18,910

And then in my

brothers and sisters,

206

00:13:18,910 --> 00:13:21,880

I'm the only one  
by a split second.

207

00:13:21,880 --> 00:13:23,820

I jumped out the train.

208

00:13:23,820 --> 00:13:27,920

And this is only one of who  
survived from the 46 people.

209

00:13:27,920 --> 00:13:29,230

And you couldn't live.

210

00:13:29,230 --> 00:13:33,940

You could not go through  
and live because you just

211

00:13:33,940 --> 00:13:40,540

were conditioned to  
be shot, and everybody

212

00:13:40,540 --> 00:13:44,350

knew that they are  
not going to live.

213

00:13:44,350 --> 00:13:49,320

Today we have buried a  
group, tomorrow, who knows?

214

00:13:49,320 --> 00:13:50,760

We may be the ones.

215

00:13:50,760 --> 00:13:54,930

Could you go back to talk  
to us about your family?

216

00:13:54,930 --> 00:14:05,530

217

00:14:05,530 --> 00:14:10,890

Before the war-- is that  
what you want me to?

218

00:14:10,890 --> 00:14:17,400

Before the war, I grew  
up, I went away to Krakow.

219

00:14:17,400 --> 00:14:21,660

Krakow was a large,  
huge town, big town.

220

00:14:21,660 --> 00:14:23,580

The reason I went  
there is because I

221

00:14:23,580 --> 00:14:30,630

was raised in a small town  
about 60 miles away from Krakow.

222

00:14:30,630 --> 00:14:34,470

And in Krakow, you had  
better opportunities

223

00:14:34,470 --> 00:14:36,810

to create some kind of a living.

224

00:14:36,810 --> 00:14:41,960

Of course, a job to  
get was impossible.

225

00:14:41,960 --> 00:14:47,780

I was going around and looking  
for a job for, I think,

226

00:14:47,780 --> 00:14:49,160

two weeks.

227

00:14:49,160 --> 00:14:53,030

And I was a tailor.

228

00:14:53,030 --> 00:14:57,460

I was a specialist in

putting up this collar

229

00:14:57,460 --> 00:15:00,080

on shirts, a shirtmaker.

230

00:15:00,080 --> 00:15:04,730

I was a specialist, and there  
were not too many of them.

231

00:15:04,730 --> 00:15:07,280

Still, I couldn't get the job.

232

00:15:07,280 --> 00:15:10,560

And so once, I  
went into a factory

233

00:15:10,560 --> 00:15:13,208

and I applied for a job.

234

00:15:13,208 --> 00:15:14,000

What year was this?

235

00:15:14,000 --> 00:15:14,720

I'm sorry.

236

00:15:14,720 --> 00:15:17,473

This was in '39.

237

00:15:17,473 --> 00:15:21,730

238

00:15:21,730 --> 00:15:22,510

Before the war.

239

00:15:22,510 --> 00:15:23,010

Before the.

240

00:15:23,010 --> 00:15:27,320

War That's what I'm talking  
about, before the war.

241

00:15:27,320 --> 00:15:31,070

And I go into the factory  
and they say, no, there's

242

00:15:31,070 --> 00:15:32,000

no opening here.

243

00:15:32,000 --> 00:15:34,250

They can't have anybody.

244

00:15:34,250 --> 00:15:35,960

And this was noontime.

245

00:15:35,960 --> 00:15:40,680

A girl goes out who was working  
there, and I talked to her,

246

00:15:40,680 --> 00:15:42,180

I got acquainted with her.

247

00:15:42,180 --> 00:15:45,620

And I asked her what  
she is doing here

248

00:15:45,620 --> 00:15:47,200

and how long she's here.

249

00:15:47,200 --> 00:15:49,310

And she told me the whole  
story that she's not

250

00:15:49,310 --> 00:15:51,230

making too much money,  
she's not too happy.

251

00:15:51,230 --> 00:15:55,820

I said, how would you like if  
I would buy a couple machines--

252

00:15:55,820 --> 00:15:57,470

I had a few hundred  
dollars with me--

253

00:15:57,470 --> 00:16:00,500

254

00:16:00,500 --> 00:16:06,200

and can you supply  
me with a contractor

255

00:16:06,200 --> 00:16:12,980

from the big factories, cut  
stuff, and we will produce it?

256

00:16:12,980 --> 00:16:15,680

She says it's a good idea,  
she's going to inquire.

257

00:16:15,680 --> 00:16:18,890

And it didn't take her  
too long, took her a day,

258

00:16:18,890 --> 00:16:20,000

and she came back to me.

259

00:16:20,000 --> 00:16:23,280

She says, yes, she would  
like to quit that factory

260

00:16:23,280 --> 00:16:26,660

and she is going to  
supply me as much work

261

00:16:26,660 --> 00:16:29,660

as I need if I will  
have the machinery.

262

00:16:29,660 --> 00:16:34,080

And so I started off a factory  
for myself before the war,

263

00:16:34,080 --> 00:16:35,150

and it was going good.

264

00:16:35,150 --> 00:16:38,990

I'm not going to go in how much  
I make and how long it took.

265  
00:16:38,990 --> 00:16:44,240  
But it took about a year  
when then the war conditions

266  
00:16:44,240 --> 00:16:47,150  
started, when they  
start talking about war.

267  
00:16:47,150 --> 00:16:51,260  
When Czechoslovakia, when  
Austria, the Anschluss,

268  
00:16:51,260 --> 00:16:53,660  
and then Czechoslovakia  
was dismantled,

269  
00:16:53,660 --> 00:16:56,630  
and then they wanted  
a part of Poland.

270  
00:16:56,630 --> 00:17:03,260  
And so there's no more business.

271  
00:17:03,260 --> 00:17:11,005  
The stores didn't sell anything  
and the factories stopped,

272  
00:17:11,005 --> 00:17:12,990  
and there was no work.

273  
00:17:12,990 --> 00:17:15,740  
So I went back home and  
I left her the machines,

274  
00:17:15,740 --> 00:17:19,220  
and I said look, make  
yourself, if you can,

275  
00:17:19,220 --> 00:17:22,582  
a living here by private things.



276  
00:17:22,582 --> 00:17:24,290  
And here are the  
machines and everything,

277  
00:17:24,290 --> 00:17:27,960  
and I went back, and let  
me know when it will open.

278  
00:17:27,960 --> 00:17:31,340  
And it didn't take too long,  
and I was called into the army.

279  
00:17:31,340 --> 00:17:34,400

280  
00:17:34,400 --> 00:17:36,010  
And we went, of course.

281  
00:17:36,010 --> 00:17:39,890  
In the army, I left everything,  
and I'm going to go further.

282  
00:17:39,890 --> 00:17:45,530  
The first day when the war broke  
out-- that was Friday morning--

283  
00:17:45,530 --> 00:17:50,360  
a bomb fell into that building  
where my machines were,

284  
00:17:50,360 --> 00:17:51,730  
in my factory.

285  
00:17:51,730 --> 00:17:58,550  
But this is the way it is  
because they were aiming

286  
00:17:58,550 --> 00:18:00,710  
for the railroad  
station and this was

287

00:18:00,710 --> 00:18:02,480  
close to the railroad station.

288  
00:18:02,480 --> 00:18:04,790  
So this is where  
my factory went.

289  
00:18:04,790 --> 00:18:06,720  
What did your father  
do for a living?

290  
00:18:06,720 --> 00:18:14,470  
My father was a dealer  
with meadowland.

291  
00:18:14,470 --> 00:18:18,470  
We were living close by a big  
range, a huge range where there

292  
00:18:18,470 --> 00:18:23,290  
were thousands and thousands  
of caddle, and meadowlands,

293  
00:18:23,290 --> 00:18:27,620  
and hay was an article.

294  
00:18:27,620 --> 00:18:31,920  
Now, my father  
rented, let's say,

295  
00:18:31,920 --> 00:18:39,380  
50 or 150 acres of those  
meadows and was selling parcels

296  
00:18:39,380 --> 00:18:40,130  
to farmers.

297  
00:18:40,130 --> 00:18:45,400  
A farmer came and he wanted,  
let's say, 1 acre of this hay,

298  
00:18:45,400 --> 00:18:50,720  
and he had cut it himself and

he dried it and he removed it.

299

00:18:50,720 --> 00:18:55,430

And it was a good  
business, especially when

300

00:18:55,430 --> 00:18:59,300

somebody wanted a better  
one, they always paid better

301

00:18:59,300 --> 00:19:03,350

and they even  
brought a fat chicken

302

00:19:03,350 --> 00:19:07,070

to have a better parcel  
off of this land.

303

00:19:07,070 --> 00:19:08,010

And this was good.

304

00:19:08,010 --> 00:19:08,510

Besides

305

00:19:08,510 --> 00:19:14,490

That, we had a dairy taking  
the milk from this big ranch.

306

00:19:14,490 --> 00:19:19,100

And we were producing  
kosher cheese and butter

307

00:19:19,100 --> 00:19:22,860

and then supplying to  
the bigger towns around.

308

00:19:22,860 --> 00:19:25,470

And this was a part  
of our business.

309

00:19:25,470 --> 00:19:28,220

Now going to the  
hay, not all the hay

310  
00:19:28,220 --> 00:19:31,310  
was sold while it  
was still green.

311  
00:19:31,310 --> 00:19:32,390  
We were cutting it.

312  
00:19:32,390 --> 00:19:40,250  
They were cutting it and piling  
in big, big, huge stacks,

313  
00:19:40,250 --> 00:19:42,320  
stocks, huge pile--

314  
00:19:42,320 --> 00:19:43,420  
Shafts.

315  
00:19:43,420 --> 00:19:43,920  
Yeah.

316  
00:19:43,920 --> 00:19:44,840  
I know what you mean.

317  
00:19:44,840 --> 00:19:45,690  
Yeah.

318  
00:19:45,690 --> 00:19:50,130  
And this is the way we were  
keeping them till spring.

319  
00:19:50,130 --> 00:19:53,040  
In spring, the  
armies around there

320  
00:19:53,040 --> 00:19:56,040  
in the small towns like  
Tarnow and [PLACE NAME],,

321  
00:19:56,040 --> 00:19:57,540  
there were infantry.

322

00:19:57,540 --> 00:19:59,910  
All horses, and they needed hay.

323

00:19:59,910 --> 00:20:03,030  
And we were selling  
this hay to the army.

324

00:20:03,030 --> 00:20:05,520  
And this is the way we  
were doing the business.

325

00:20:05,520 --> 00:20:08,730  
But when the war  
broke out, no more--

326

00:20:08,730 --> 00:20:13,740  
the Jew was afraid to  
go out because some

327

00:20:13,740 --> 00:20:16,200  
of the people, the  
Gentile people, some

328

00:20:16,200 --> 00:20:19,290  
of them were very  
anti-Semitic and they

329

00:20:19,290 --> 00:20:26,322  
were right away objecting that  
the Jew going out [INAUDIBLE]..

330

00:20:26,322 --> 00:20:30,820  
What did being Jewish mean  
to you then in those days?

331

00:20:30,820 --> 00:20:33,270  
Of course, it is--

332

00:20:33,270 --> 00:20:36,930  
we had our rights.

333

00:20:36,930 --> 00:20:40,680

The government wasn't the worst in Poland before the war.

334  
00:20:40,680 --> 00:20:45,180  
Especially Joseph Pilsudski-- maybe you heard of him.

335  
00:20:45,180 --> 00:20:47,670  
He was good to the Jews.

336  
00:20:47,670 --> 00:20:48,790  
The Jews had their right.

337  
00:20:48,790 --> 00:20:52,500  
The Jews led doing a lot of business and good business.

338  
00:20:52,500 --> 00:20:59,630  
And when the war broke out, of course, when the Germans--

339  
00:20:59,630 --> 00:21:04,260  
I'm going to get closer when the Germans move in into Poland.

340  
00:21:04,260 --> 00:21:05,560  
And the Jews had--

341  
00:21:05,560 --> 00:21:09,240  
the business, the stores in the towns were all Jewish.

342  
00:21:09,240 --> 00:21:12,390  
There were no-- there were very few Gentile stores.

343  
00:21:12,390 --> 00:21:13,890  
All they're Jewish.

344  
00:21:13,890 --> 00:21:20,770  
And they-- the biggest stores, they used to take a German--

345

00:21:20,770 --> 00:21:23,910  
he was called a Volksdeutsche.

346

00:21:23,910 --> 00:21:26,100  
He was a Gentile.

347

00:21:26,100 --> 00:21:28,690  
I mean, he was a Polack.

348

00:21:28,690 --> 00:21:30,990  
But he right away  
became a German

349

00:21:30,990 --> 00:21:33,600  
because he was living  
maybe close to the borders.

350

00:21:33,600 --> 00:21:38,670  
And they put in a guy that  
is in a store in all the--

351

00:21:38,670 --> 00:21:40,950  
whatever it was, the  
money, everything

352

00:21:40,950 --> 00:21:42,510  
was going for the Germans.

353

00:21:42,510 --> 00:21:44,320  
So people saw what's going on.

354

00:21:44,320 --> 00:21:48,000  
They started to give  
out to the Gentiles

355

00:21:48,000 --> 00:21:50,610  
outside to farmers,  
some material.

356

00:21:50,610 --> 00:21:54,570  
They were thinking that  
maybe the war will end,

357  
00:21:54,570 --> 00:21:58,890  
we will be able to get  
out and start off again.

358  
00:21:58,890 --> 00:22:06,450  
So this was one big problem  
when the Polish people

359  
00:22:06,450 --> 00:22:12,120  
saw that no Jews are  
being left alive.

360  
00:22:12,120 --> 00:22:15,420  
So they didn't want to have  
any witnesses that they

361  
00:22:15,420 --> 00:22:17,910  
have Jewish goods there.

362  
00:22:17,910 --> 00:22:23,550  
For instance, I came back from  
the first German Polish war.

363  
00:22:23,550 --> 00:22:28,200  
I had two aunts in the town  
DÄ™bica I went in there.

364  
00:22:28,200 --> 00:22:33,490  
I hired two horses  
and a big hay wagon.

365  
00:22:33,490 --> 00:22:36,900  
And I went and I  
picked up all the--

366  
00:22:36,900 --> 00:22:41,640  
one was in peace goods business,  
one was in the other one.

367  
00:22:41,640 --> 00:22:44,070  
And I picked up  
all this material



368  
00:22:44,070 --> 00:22:46,710  
and brought it over  
to our place there.

369  
00:22:46,710 --> 00:22:52,320  
And I put it into  
a Gentile who was

370  
00:22:52,320 --> 00:22:55,170  
supposed to have been  
our best friend, supposed

371  
00:22:55,170 --> 00:22:56,310  
to be our best friend.

372  
00:22:56,310 --> 00:23:00,540  
And we were hiding it there  
in order to get after the war

373  
00:23:00,540 --> 00:23:01,670  
when we will be alive.

374  
00:23:01,670 --> 00:23:04,590  
And we didn't know that it's  
going to happen to the Jews.

375  
00:23:04,590 --> 00:23:08,700  
So the war will end and we'll  
have something to start off.

376  
00:23:08,700 --> 00:23:12,750  
This Gentile who  
were our friend,

377  
00:23:12,750 --> 00:23:15,330  
and I unload to him for  
thousands and thousands

378  
00:23:15,330 --> 00:23:18,900  
of dollars of goods to him.

379

00:23:18,900 --> 00:23:21,960  
My brother who was hiding  
there in the forest

380  
00:23:21,960 --> 00:23:25,880  
went out to him at night  
for a piece of bread.

381  
00:23:25,880 --> 00:23:31,200  
And he said, if you will come  
once more on this backyard,

382  
00:23:31,200 --> 00:23:36,030  
I will tie you up and I'm  
going to deliver you to the SS,

383  
00:23:36,030 --> 00:23:37,180  
to the police.

384  
00:23:37,180 --> 00:23:37,890  
That happened.

385  
00:23:37,890 --> 00:23:39,700  
Things like this happened.

386  
00:23:39,700 --> 00:23:41,580  
So of course, he didn't  
want to go anymore

387  
00:23:41,580 --> 00:23:42,720  
to a place like this.

388  
00:23:42,720 --> 00:23:48,190  
Now for instance, there was a  
big shoe store we called Bata.

389  
00:23:48,190 --> 00:23:51,630  
This was one of the biggest  
factories and biggest shoe

390  
00:23:51,630 --> 00:23:52,740  
stores.

391

00:23:52,740 --> 00:23:55,170

He has given out--

392

00:23:55,170 --> 00:23:57,960

he had thousands of thousands  
of dollars of shoes.

393

00:23:57,960 --> 00:24:00,660

And he was trying to do smart.

394

00:24:00,660 --> 00:24:06,240

He took all left shoes and gave  
them out to one farmer like,

395

00:24:06,240 --> 00:24:09,180

let's say, in Philadelphia  
and to another farmer,

396

00:24:09,180 --> 00:24:12,450

the right shoes  
like Atlantic City.

397

00:24:12,450 --> 00:24:16,900

That's so far that one wouldn't  
know from the other one.

398

00:24:16,900 --> 00:24:18,660

Do you think that  
they didn't find out

399

00:24:18,660 --> 00:24:22,550

whether I choose [INAUDIBLE]  
they had an exchange of shoes.

400

00:24:22,550 --> 00:24:25,672

They had-- you give me you  
give me a pair of right,

401

00:24:25,672 --> 00:24:26,880

I'll give you a pair of left.

402

00:24:26,880 --> 00:24:28,310

This is how it went.

403

00:24:28,310 --> 00:24:31,980

And these people, not only  
one, but in the thousands

404

00:24:31,980 --> 00:24:37,320

and thousands of Jewish goods  
was given out to the Gentiles

405

00:24:37,320 --> 00:24:41,580

because out thinking that the  
war will end because this way,

406

00:24:41,580 --> 00:24:42,960

the German took away.

407

00:24:42,960 --> 00:24:44,820

This way that the  
war will end, they

408

00:24:44,820 --> 00:24:47,610

will be able to start off again.

409

00:24:47,610 --> 00:24:52,290

And these people who had  
the Jewish properties

410

00:24:52,290 --> 00:24:56,000

were interested in that no  
witness should be alive.

411

00:24:56,000 --> 00:25:00,990

And they were helping  
destroy the people.

412

00:25:00,990 --> 00:25:03,630

Were these people  
friends formally?

413

00:25:03,630 --> 00:25:04,320

Before the war?

414

00:25:04,320 --> 00:25:06,060

Of course.

415

00:25:06,060 --> 00:25:09,600

We had, as I said,  
we had a dairy farm.

416

00:25:09,600 --> 00:25:13,270

And these people came--  
they were poor people.

417

00:25:13,270 --> 00:25:17,700

They came to us for  
a glass of milk.

418

00:25:17,700 --> 00:25:20,120

They had a little baby  
that need a glass of milk.

419

00:25:20,120 --> 00:25:23,700

And my mother, may she rest  
in peace, always gave him.

420

00:25:23,700 --> 00:25:28,420

Gave him yoghurt, gave  
him milk, gave him--

421

00:25:28,420 --> 00:25:29,940

they didn't have any.

422

00:25:29,940 --> 00:25:31,230

They were poor.

423

00:25:31,230 --> 00:25:36,000

But later on, they just  
turn from here like that.

424

00:25:36,000 --> 00:25:39,750

When you took out the  
property and gave it to them,

425

00:25:39,750 --> 00:25:43,440

they were interested that  
no Jew will be alive.

426  
00:25:43,440 --> 00:25:45,260  
And they was helping.

427  
00:25:45,260 --> 00:25:49,950  
They really hope because  
the Germans not always

428  
00:25:49,950 --> 00:25:53,600  
could recognize who is  
Jewish and who is not Jewish.

429  
00:25:53,600 --> 00:25:54,750  
But they did it.

430  
00:25:54,750 --> 00:25:56,600  
They pointed out.

431  
00:25:56,600 --> 00:25:59,790  
Were there any exceptions  
to this in the early stage?

432  
00:25:59,790 --> 00:26:05,340  
If somebody survived, is only  
a stranger from somewhere

433  
00:26:05,340 --> 00:26:09,540  
where he wasn't  
living in this area,

434  
00:26:09,540 --> 00:26:12,540  
and he had a lot of  
money to pay him.

435  
00:26:12,540 --> 00:26:23,900  
And only, let's say, one of  
10,000, of 10,000 people.

436  
00:26:23,900 --> 00:26:28,020  
I had the two sisters.

437

00:26:28,020 --> 00:26:30,420

I had three sisters,  
but one was married.

438

00:26:30,420 --> 00:26:31,200

I had two sisters.

439

00:26:31,200 --> 00:26:35,060

The youngest was  
about 18 years old.

440

00:26:35,060 --> 00:26:37,530

And I tried to send  
her-- there was

441

00:26:37,530 --> 00:26:42,730

a time where Polish girls were  
going to Germany for work.

442

00:26:42,730 --> 00:26:45,983

They were sending Polish--  
they picked up Polish girls,

443

00:26:45,983 --> 00:26:47,400

and they were  
sending them to work

444

00:26:47,400 --> 00:26:51,390

to Germany on farms in Germany.

445

00:26:51,390 --> 00:26:57,030

And I was trying to get  
my youngest sister a birth

446

00:26:57,030 --> 00:27:02,475

certificate that her name  
is a Polish name, born there

447

00:27:02,475 --> 00:27:05,460

and belong to this  
church and everything.

448

00:27:05,460 --> 00:27:06,600  
Couldn't get it.

449  
00:27:06,600 --> 00:27:13,050  
For no money, I  
went to a priest.

450  
00:27:13,050 --> 00:27:18,960  
I went to a house of a father.

451  
00:27:18,960 --> 00:27:21,860  
He's a priest.

452  
00:27:21,860 --> 00:27:23,250  
And I ask for that.

453  
00:27:23,250 --> 00:27:29,010  
And I asked to make me out a  
birth certificate like this

454  
00:27:29,010 --> 00:27:31,890  
so that she could  
go away to work.

455  
00:27:31,890 --> 00:27:32,910  
Couldn't get it.

456  
00:27:32,910 --> 00:27:34,750  
And this girl-- go ahead.

457  
00:27:34,750 --> 00:27:35,870  
Yeah, I'm sorry.

458  
00:27:35,870 --> 00:27:39,930  
Were the priests helpful or  
were they also informants?

459  
00:27:39,930 --> 00:27:44,160  
If they would have  
been at least neutral,

460  
00:27:44,160 --> 00:27:47,910



thousands and thousands of  
people would have survived.

461  
00:27:47,910 --> 00:27:49,890  
They were not neutral.

462  
00:27:49,890 --> 00:27:54,540  
They were-- the anti-Semitism  
was so terrible.

463  
00:27:54,540 --> 00:27:56,910  
And they were in this church.

464  
00:27:56,910 --> 00:28:00,150  
In the church,  
they were preached

465  
00:28:00,150 --> 00:28:07,530  
about the Jews killed Jesus  
and the Jews are still--

466  
00:28:07,530 --> 00:28:10,560  
today-- today, my  
friends went to Poland.

467  
00:28:10,560 --> 00:28:17,250  
Still say that he was  
having a cab driver.

468  
00:28:17,250 --> 00:28:20,000  
He says that to the Jews--

469  
00:28:20,000 --> 00:28:22,230  
he is still teaching  
his children

470  
00:28:22,230 --> 00:28:26,040  
that the Jews has killed  
children for matzah.

471  
00:28:26,040 --> 00:28:28,800  
They need the blood  
for the matzah today.

472  
00:28:28,800 --> 00:28:30,240  
And this is what was--

473  
00:28:30,240 --> 00:28:33,570  
this was born in the Polacks.

474  
00:28:33,570 --> 00:28:36,240  
And they were so  
anti-Semitic, especially when

475  
00:28:36,240 --> 00:28:38,940  
they had the right of the  
hand that a Jew wasn't

476  
00:28:38,940 --> 00:28:42,090  
worth anything but to be shot.

477  
00:28:42,090 --> 00:28:44,070  
I had heard that there  
were some priests who

478  
00:28:44,070 --> 00:28:46,070  
were helpful and then  
were subsequently shot.

479  
00:28:46,070 --> 00:28:46,750  
Is that true?

480  
00:28:46,750 --> 00:28:47,792  
Do you know of anything--

481  
00:28:47,792 --> 00:28:48,530  
I didn't get.

482  
00:28:48,530 --> 00:28:50,280  
Well, there's some  
stories that there

483  
00:28:50,280 --> 00:28:51,840  
were some priests,  
some religious,

484  
00:28:51,840 --> 00:28:53,520  
who were helpful to  
Jews and then were

485  
00:28:53,520 --> 00:28:55,530  
subsequently destroyed.

486  
00:28:55,530 --> 00:28:58,110  
Well, it was-- it happened.

487  
00:28:58,110 --> 00:28:58,700  
It happened.

488  
00:28:58,700 --> 00:29:04,560  
They were somewhere, let's  
say, as I said, one of 1,000.

489  
00:29:04,560 --> 00:29:06,720  
It happens in a few.

490  
00:29:06,720 --> 00:29:09,300  
You can see not  
so much in Poland

491  
00:29:09,300 --> 00:29:12,390  
as it is in other  
like in Czechoslovakia

492  
00:29:12,390 --> 00:29:15,330  
or in Hungary in those towns.

493  
00:29:15,330 --> 00:29:21,120  
And of course, those terms  
Hitler was only one year.

494  
00:29:21,120 --> 00:29:23,910  
In Poland, it was five years.

495  
00:29:23,910 --> 00:29:27,820  
And five years, to  
survive, it was impossible.

496  
00:29:27,820 --> 00:29:30,210  
We went to the forest.

497  
00:29:30,210 --> 00:29:33,720  
How long can you stay in the  
forest summer and winter?

498  
00:29:33,720 --> 00:29:38,100  
Winter is 25 below, the  
snow and everything.

499  
00:29:38,100 --> 00:29:40,950  
You had to go out  
somewhere and to sleep over

500  
00:29:40,950 --> 00:29:45,060  
somewhere in a barn to put  
yourself somewhere in the hay

501  
00:29:45,060 --> 00:29:46,140  
and sleep.

502  
00:29:46,140 --> 00:29:47,760  
You couldn't stay in the forest.

503  
00:29:47,760 --> 00:29:51,390  
And it was impossible  
five years to survive.

504  
00:29:51,390 --> 00:29:57,510  
And those, if there were a few  
who survived, that some help.

505  
00:29:57,510 --> 00:30:02,350  
Of course, they were  
going out with weapon

506  
00:30:02,350 --> 00:30:04,620  
for bread and things like that.

507  
00:30:04,620 --> 00:30:09,040

And in the beginning, a lot of  
people went through the forest,

508  
00:30:09,040 --> 00:30:12,090  
in the beginning, thinking  
that this will blow over,

509  
00:30:12,090 --> 00:30:18,130  
that it will eventually  
finish, the war will end.

510  
00:30:18,130 --> 00:30:21,150  
And it's going to be  
maybe still alive.

511  
00:30:21,150 --> 00:30:22,990  
So hundreds and  
hundreds of people,

512  
00:30:22,990 --> 00:30:27,330  
when the they get  
this way liquidated,

513  
00:30:27,330 --> 00:30:29,220  
they went into the forest.

514  
00:30:29,220 --> 00:30:31,670  
And those people had to eat.

515  
00:30:31,670 --> 00:30:35,130  
And they had to go out  
to the farmers for food.

516  
00:30:35,130 --> 00:30:37,120  
And the farmers, they  
were not the rich people,

517  
00:30:37,120 --> 00:30:39,360  
rich farmers like  
farmer here who

518  
00:30:39,360 --> 00:30:44,510  
has 1,000 pieces of

cattle or something.

519

00:30:44,510 --> 00:30:48,680

Gentile peasant who  
had one or two cows.

520

00:30:48,680 --> 00:30:54,000

And this is what this milk  
and raise the children.

521

00:30:54,000 --> 00:30:57,570

And the corn and wheat what  
he had from his own farm.

522

00:30:57,570 --> 00:31:00,480

And this thousands of  
people from the forests

523

00:31:00,480 --> 00:31:02,550

all around needed to eat.

524

00:31:02,550 --> 00:31:05,640

And they were going  
out to the farmers

525

00:31:05,640 --> 00:31:10,150

with weapon because the fathers,  
they wouldn't give them.

526

00:31:10,150 --> 00:31:11,980

And they were up in arms.

527

00:31:11,980 --> 00:31:16,530

The farmers were  
so terribly mad.

528

00:31:16,530 --> 00:31:18,980

They, right away,  
reported to the police

529

00:31:18,980 --> 00:31:22,750

and to the German authorities  
that there and there are

530  
00:31:22,750 --> 00:31:24,940  
the Jews are hiding there.

531  
00:31:24,940 --> 00:31:27,810  
And they were  
surrounding the forests

532  
00:31:27,810 --> 00:31:30,250  
and killing a lot of them.

533  
00:31:30,250 --> 00:31:34,740  
Aaron, as you go  
back before the war,

534  
00:31:34,740 --> 00:31:38,790  
are there some things that  
you remember particularly

535  
00:31:38,790 --> 00:31:45,050  
with fondness or with happiness  
with your own family with--

536  
00:31:45,050 --> 00:31:46,590  
Well--

537  
00:31:46,590 --> 00:31:48,510  
Some things that you  
recall that were--

538  
00:31:48,510 --> 00:31:49,890  
that you cherish very much.

539  
00:31:49,890 --> 00:31:52,470  
When were talking about  
before the war, of course,

540  
00:31:52,470 --> 00:31:56,370  
everybody had dreams,  
everybody had--

541  
00:31:56,370 --> 00:32:02,380

as I said before, I already  
had established like a factory.

542  
00:32:02,380 --> 00:32:06,340  
And I was having a dream  
that this is going to be--

543  
00:32:06,340 --> 00:32:08,670  
someday is going to  
grow into a big town,

544  
00:32:08,670 --> 00:32:13,200  
and it is going article  
what I was producing.

545  
00:32:13,200 --> 00:32:16,980  
And this is what a  
lot of people had it.

546  
00:32:16,980 --> 00:32:20,940  
Now, when we ask about--

547  
00:32:20,940 --> 00:32:27,750  
when somebody ask about how  
you lived before the war,

548  
00:32:27,750 --> 00:32:30,660  
the Jews didn't live bad.

549  
00:32:30,660 --> 00:32:33,660  
As I said, they are all in  
this-- the whole business

550  
00:32:33,660 --> 00:32:36,510  
industry was in Jewish hands.

551  
00:32:36,510 --> 00:32:38,730  
And a part of this,  
the anti-Semitism

552  
00:32:38,730 --> 00:32:43,660  
was so bad because  
the peasant had



553  
00:32:43,660 --> 00:32:49,560  
to take 30 eggs what  
he had during the week

554  
00:32:49,560 --> 00:32:52,440  
and collect collected and  
bring them to the town

555  
00:32:52,440 --> 00:32:57,000  
to sell in order to buy salt  
or sugar or buy something.

556  
00:32:57,000 --> 00:32:59,280  
And this, all this created--

557  
00:32:59,280 --> 00:33:10,470  
And later on, I would say, it  
was called the Intelligence.

558  
00:33:10,470 --> 00:33:14,130  
They were starting off  
not to buy at Jews.

559  
00:33:14,130 --> 00:33:20,340  
Anti-Semitism was already  
so awakened all over

560  
00:33:20,340 --> 00:33:25,710  
that big letters were  
written on the walls.

561  
00:33:25,710 --> 00:33:27,930  
Now how do I translated  
from Polish to--

562  
00:33:27,930 --> 00:33:29,160  
Say it in Polish first.

563  
00:33:29,160 --> 00:33:29,700  
--English.

564

00:33:29,700 --> 00:33:31,720  
Say in Polish first.

565  
00:33:31,720 --> 00:33:33,670  
[SPEAKING POLISH]

566  
00:33:33,670 --> 00:33:35,550

567  
00:33:35,550 --> 00:33:45,090  
That means-- [SPEAKING POLISH]  
that means don't buy at Jews.

568  
00:33:45,090 --> 00:33:47,220  
And go to your own.

569  
00:33:47,220 --> 00:33:51,120  
Something like that, in  
order to translate this.

570  
00:33:51,120 --> 00:33:53,880  
All those things was going on.

571  
00:33:53,880 --> 00:33:57,080  
And this is the  
way before the war.

572  
00:33:57,080 --> 00:34:03,060  
Now if I would tell  
you what happened

573  
00:34:03,060 --> 00:34:05,670  
to people before  
the war, some people

574  
00:34:05,670 --> 00:34:08,670  
were living very well in Poland.

575  
00:34:08,670 --> 00:34:12,900  
They had their rights and  
they had their good business.

576

00:34:12,900 --> 00:34:21,540

And of course, no matter,  
the poorest had his bread

577

00:34:21,540 --> 00:34:22,909

and have worked.

578

00:34:22,909 --> 00:34:25,469

He was doing some business.

579

00:34:25,469 --> 00:34:27,510

And he was doing fine.

580

00:34:27,510 --> 00:34:29,010

This was before the war.

581

00:34:29,010 --> 00:34:32,739

And there is nothing  
special to say, well,

582

00:34:32,739 --> 00:34:35,130

this was the best thing  
what happened to the Jews

583

00:34:35,130 --> 00:34:35,870

before the war.

584

00:34:35,870 --> 00:34:37,980

Before the war,  
people were working

585

00:34:37,980 --> 00:34:40,380

just as hard as possible.

586

00:34:40,380 --> 00:34:43,380

And they were living  
better than the Gentiles.

587

00:34:43,380 --> 00:34:45,060

Were you and your  
family always together

588

00:34:45,060 --> 00:34:46,590  
at holidays and Shabbat and--

589  
00:34:46,590 --> 00:34:52,380  
This was one of the  
main problems in Poland

590  
00:34:52,380 --> 00:34:56,710  
why all families perished.

591  
00:34:56,710 --> 00:35:01,740  
The kids, the children will  
not go away from their parents.

592  
00:35:01,740 --> 00:35:04,110  
They would not go away  
from their parents.

593  
00:35:04,110 --> 00:35:06,330  
They lived together.

594  
00:35:06,330 --> 00:35:11,190  
They married in the same town  
and lived in walking distance.

595  
00:35:11,190 --> 00:35:14,950  
Here, a child grows up,  
moves out to California,

596  
00:35:14,950 --> 00:35:16,930  
moves out to Arizona.

597  
00:35:16,930 --> 00:35:20,370  
And if he marries there,  
that's it, that's it.

598  
00:35:20,370 --> 00:35:21,350  
They get used to it.

599  
00:35:21,350 --> 00:35:22,770  
They have to live  
somewhere apart.

600

00:35:22,770 --> 00:35:25,680

In Europe, this wasn't the case.

601

00:35:25,680 --> 00:35:28,860

In Europe, the case  
was that children

602

00:35:28,860 --> 00:35:32,170

were living in the same town,  
married in the same town.

603

00:35:32,170 --> 00:35:38,280

Most is a town further away,  
let's say, 25 miles away or so.

604

00:35:38,280 --> 00:35:45,510

And this is how it  
contributed to the destruction

605

00:35:45,510 --> 00:35:49,050

of the Jewish people because  
children wouldn't go away

606

00:35:49,050 --> 00:35:51,300

from home, living together.

607

00:35:51,300 --> 00:35:55,050

Even in the ghettos  
where we saw--

608

00:35:55,050 --> 00:35:58,230

of course, nobody  
knew that these people

609

00:35:58,230 --> 00:36:00,540

who are being displaced  
and those that they

610

00:36:00,540 --> 00:36:01,920

are going to be gassed.

611

00:36:01,920 --> 00:36:05,240

Nobody knew that  
till the last minute.

612  
00:36:05,240 --> 00:36:10,290  
And that's the way children  
went with their parents.

613  
00:36:10,290 --> 00:36:15,030  
Now for instance,  
my youngest sister,

614  
00:36:15,030 --> 00:36:18,120  
she was-- when she  
went to Auschwitz

615  
00:36:18,120 --> 00:36:23,070  
and demonstrate into the gas  
chambers with my parents,

616  
00:36:23,070 --> 00:36:26,150  
she wouldn't go away  
from the parents.

617  
00:36:26,150 --> 00:36:29,880  
Now if she would have gone  
spent together, let's say,

618  
00:36:29,880 --> 00:36:33,870  
like my wife went--  
my wife went--

619  
00:36:33,870 --> 00:36:35,820  
she knew that this is  
a certain group who

620  
00:36:35,820 --> 00:36:38,790  
works for a German  
outfit in this town

621  
00:36:38,790 --> 00:36:43,290  
that this same outfit will be in  
Plaszow, in that concentration

622

00:36:43,290 --> 00:36:45,120  
camp in working.

623  
00:36:45,120 --> 00:36:47,070  
She went over there  
where the men were

624  
00:36:47,070 --> 00:36:50,040  
and then she came to Plaszow.

625  
00:36:50,040 --> 00:36:52,560  
Of course, I didn't  
know her at that time.

626  
00:36:52,560 --> 00:36:54,690  
But this is what had happened.

627  
00:36:54,690 --> 00:36:57,210  
And my sister could  
do the same thing.

628  
00:36:57,210 --> 00:36:59,310  
She wouldn't go away  
from the parents.

629  
00:36:59,310 --> 00:37:00,870  
She was staying  
with the parents.

630  
00:37:00,870 --> 00:37:03,390  
And she know that all  
the people already.

631  
00:37:03,390 --> 00:37:05,700  
We knew that at  
the time that they

632  
00:37:05,700 --> 00:37:08,490  
have no chance of surviving.

633  
00:37:08,490 --> 00:37:14,140  
And this was one  
of the main points

634

00:37:14,140 --> 00:37:17,260

how whole families  
perished in one time

635

00:37:17,260 --> 00:37:19,060

without any [INAUDIBLE].

636

00:37:19,060 --> 00:37:22,030

Can you tell us about the day  
when your parents and sister

637

00:37:22,030 --> 00:37:24,340

were taken?

638

00:37:24,340 --> 00:37:28,330

They were-- this in 40--

639

00:37:28,330 --> 00:37:31,090

the end of '43.

640

00:37:31,090 --> 00:37:32,300

Or was it?

641

00:37:32,300 --> 00:37:32,800

Yeah.

642

00:37:32,800 --> 00:37:40,240

The end of '43 when the  
Tarnow Ghetto was cleared.

643

00:37:40,240 --> 00:37:45,550

It was called  
[SPEAKING POLISH] free of Jews.

644

00:37:45,550 --> 00:37:50,160

And at that time, of  
course, in that ghetto,

645

00:37:50,160 --> 00:37:52,640

they were two separate ghettos.



646

00:37:52,640 --> 00:37:56,160

The older people  
who did not work

647

00:37:56,160 --> 00:37:58,450

lived in one part of the ghetto.

648

00:37:58,450 --> 00:38:02,108

And the people who were  
working lived on the other part

649

00:38:02,108 --> 00:38:03,400

of the ghetto-- younger people.

650

00:38:03,400 --> 00:38:04,400

If she would have--

651

00:38:04,400 --> 00:38:08,290

if my youngest sister would  
have gone to this part where

652

00:38:08,290 --> 00:38:11,170

the people were working,  
she had a chance maybe

653

00:38:11,170 --> 00:38:13,570

she would have survived.

654

00:38:13,570 --> 00:38:14,770

It's not for sure.

655

00:38:14,770 --> 00:38:17,470

But she had a chance.

656

00:38:17,470 --> 00:38:23,950

This way, they went straight  
to Auschwitz to the Birkenau.

657

00:38:23,950 --> 00:38:31,680

And this is how they  
cleared every ghetto.

658

00:38:31,680 --> 00:38:33,900

Straight to the gas chambers.

659

00:38:33,900 --> 00:38:36,010

And they, of course--  
when the ghetto had,

660

00:38:36,010 --> 00:38:41,880

let's say, 20,000 people, they  
made it into three different,

661

00:38:41,880 --> 00:38:46,000

in three separate  
slaughters, three separate,

662

00:38:46,000 --> 00:38:48,600

let's say, they called  
it action, action.

663

00:38:48,600 --> 00:38:51,580

664

00:38:51,580 --> 00:38:55,520

And when you are--

665

00:38:55,520 --> 00:39:02,170

in the beginning, hiding  
was one of the best thing.

666

00:39:02,170 --> 00:39:04,650

For instance, even  
if you were working,

667

00:39:04,650 --> 00:39:10,700

and you had a seal on a German  
outfit that you are working,

668

00:39:10,700 --> 00:39:15,790

they took your anyway and  
put you right into the group

669

00:39:15,790 --> 00:39:20,020

where they supposed to go  
into the cattle trains.

670  
00:39:20,020 --> 00:39:25,300  
And so everybody was  
looking for a hiding place.

671  
00:39:25,300 --> 00:39:28,730  
And there's another problem  
was the hiding place.

672  
00:39:28,730 --> 00:39:30,940  
You couldn't dig a  
hiding place where

673  
00:39:30,940 --> 00:39:32,710  
somebody would know about.

674  
00:39:32,710 --> 00:39:37,870  
But when it came to such a  
slaughter, people around it,

675  
00:39:37,870 --> 00:39:40,960  
they knew that in this area,  
there's a hiding place.

676  
00:39:40,960 --> 00:39:42,280  
They were coming in.

677  
00:39:42,280 --> 00:39:43,600  
And how many could you go in?

678  
00:39:43,600 --> 00:39:48,650  
Now I once was hiding  
in a place like this.

679  
00:39:48,650 --> 00:39:53,560  
I dug out, under the barrack  
where I was living, a big hole.

680  
00:39:53,560 --> 00:39:54,760  
There was a problem.

681

00:39:54,760 --> 00:39:56,830

You couldn't take  
out the sand outside

682

00:39:56,830 --> 00:39:59,050

because somebody  
would see fresh sand.

683

00:39:59,050 --> 00:40:02,890

They would know that  
somebody was dug here.

684

00:40:02,890 --> 00:40:04,900

I mean, the Germans would know.

685

00:40:04,900 --> 00:40:11,170

So you had to carry out the  
dirt by buckets in somewhere,

686

00:40:11,170 --> 00:40:12,880

hiding it so that  
nobody would know

687

00:40:12,880 --> 00:40:14,900

that there was something done.

688

00:40:14,900 --> 00:40:17,830

So I had a hiding place  
under the barracks.

689

00:40:17,830 --> 00:40:20,080

There are few people  
knew about it.

690

00:40:20,080 --> 00:40:25,450

When it came to such an action--

691

00:40:25,450 --> 00:40:28,090

they called action-- slaughter--

692

00:40:28,090 --> 00:40:29,470

people were hiding there.

693  
00:40:29,470 --> 00:40:31,450  
And there was about 21 people.

694  
00:40:31,450 --> 00:40:32,890  
You couldn't go in anymore.

695  
00:40:32,890 --> 00:40:35,440  
It was so terrible  
there in that place

696  
00:40:35,440 --> 00:40:38,500  
that a candle wouldn't stay lit.

697  
00:40:38,500 --> 00:40:40,810  
No oxygen at all in that hiding.

698  
00:40:40,810 --> 00:40:42,090  
Absolutely no candle.

699  
00:40:42,090 --> 00:40:47,140  
I went out right away because  
I couldn't let stay there.

700  
00:40:47,140 --> 00:40:51,760  
And so this is unbelievable.

701  
00:40:51,760 --> 00:40:57,490  
A grandmother, a  
children were a drugged.

702  
00:40:57,490 --> 00:40:59,950  
When they were  
going into hiding,

703  
00:40:59,950 --> 00:41:04,360  
they have given the  
children called luminol.

704  
00:41:04,360 --> 00:41:08,790  
It said drunk where the  
kids swallowed that.

705  
00:41:08,790 --> 00:41:09,830  
And they're sleeping.

706  
00:41:09,830 --> 00:41:13,060  
And they laying quiet.

707  
00:41:13,060 --> 00:41:17,350  
But a child woke up and  
started to cry terribly.

708  
00:41:17,350 --> 00:41:22,725  
So this 20 people said, go out!

709  
00:41:22,725 --> 00:41:24,100  
They're going to  
put us in grave!

710  
00:41:24,100 --> 00:41:26,900  
They're going to shoot us  
all because of that child.

711  
00:41:26,900 --> 00:41:30,370  
So a grandmother choked  
that child to death.

712  
00:41:30,370 --> 00:41:34,750  
Now if I would tell you  
this, it's unbelievable.

713  
00:41:34,750 --> 00:41:38,840  
But this is what happened  
in DÄ™bica in town.

714  
00:41:38,840 --> 00:41:42,110  
And that's why when  
you had a hiding place,

715  
00:41:42,110 --> 00:41:45,270  
you had to do it so secretly  
that nobody would know.

716

00:41:45,270 --> 00:41:49,950  
Only the few people who  
were planning to hide.

717  
00:41:49,950 --> 00:41:52,360  
Was in this child's  
own grandmother?

718  
00:41:52,360 --> 00:41:53,280  
Pardon?

719  
00:41:53,280 --> 00:41:54,780  
Was it the child's  
own grandmother?

720  
00:41:54,780 --> 00:41:55,610  
Own grandmother.

721  
00:41:55,610 --> 00:41:56,600  
Own grandmother.

722  
00:41:56,600 --> 00:41:57,310  
Thank you.

723  
00:41:57,310 --> 00:42:02,710

724  
00:42:02,710 --> 00:42:08,860  
Well, the problem is  
we know that nobody

725  
00:42:08,860 --> 00:42:10,990  
has a chance with the child.

726  
00:42:10,990 --> 00:42:13,720

727  
00:42:13,720 --> 00:42:17,630  
When this child started  
to cry, and in order to--

728  
00:42:17,630 --> 00:42:20,080

we saw that these people  
can save themselves

729  
00:42:20,080 --> 00:42:22,210  
because they were older people.

730  
00:42:22,210 --> 00:42:24,160  
And so because of one child--

731  
00:42:24,160 --> 00:42:27,490

732  
00:42:27,490 --> 00:42:30,130  
the child was choked.

733  
00:42:30,130 --> 00:42:33,190  
And in that hiding place--

734  
00:42:33,190 --> 00:42:35,550  
it's a terrible thing  
to tell somebody

735  
00:42:35,550 --> 00:42:39,070  
who didn't go through this  
because it's unbelievable.

736  
00:42:39,070 --> 00:42:43,150  
And those are things what  
happened at that time.

737  
00:42:43,150 --> 00:42:47,470  
Hiding, as I said, was very,  
in the beginning still when

738  
00:42:47,470 --> 00:42:50,482  
the ghetto we're still on--

739  
00:42:50,482 --> 00:42:53,260  
knowing that there is going  
to be still a ghetto left,

740  
00:42:53,260 --> 00:42:56,830



hiding was a temporary  
thing where you can survive

741  
00:42:56,830 --> 00:43:01,570  
until the storm would go over.

742  
00:43:01,570 --> 00:43:04,510  
And also, when they  
were shooting--

743  
00:43:04,510 --> 00:43:06,880  
in the ghetto, when  
they're shooting,

744  
00:43:06,880 --> 00:43:08,980  
anybody who had a  
place where to hide

745  
00:43:08,980 --> 00:43:12,100  
was hiding because we  
didn't know whom they shoot,

746  
00:43:12,100 --> 00:43:13,190  
why they shoot and--

747  
00:43:13,190 --> 00:43:15,850  
why, we know-- but  
whom they're shooting.

748  
00:43:15,850 --> 00:43:19,150  
Whoever came under,  
they were shooting.

749  
00:43:19,150 --> 00:43:25,170  
So hiding, it was a temporary  
relief because you hid.

750  
00:43:25,170 --> 00:43:27,820  
Then later, a ghetto  
must've left, you went out.

751  
00:43:27,820 --> 00:43:32,320  
And you still could live like

[? others. ?] Now you know by

752

00:43:32,320 --> 00:43:34,850  
now how a ghetto--

753

00:43:34,850 --> 00:43:38,500  
when we talk about the ghetto,  
when you hear in the radio

754

00:43:38,500 --> 00:43:41,110  
and television that  
the people were

755

00:43:41,110 --> 00:43:43,690  
living in Harlem in the ghetto.

756

00:43:43,690 --> 00:43:45,850  
A ghetto-- they don't  
know what a ghetto

757

00:43:45,850 --> 00:43:49,690  
means, how a ghetto was  
in Poland by the Germans.

758

00:43:49,690 --> 00:43:52,780  
A ghetto, they took  
a part of the town

759

00:43:52,780 --> 00:43:57,640  
that's a two, three blocks  
and barbed wire off the front.

760

00:43:57,640 --> 00:44:00,940  
And if a house was going out  
to the front of the ghetto,

761

00:44:00,940 --> 00:44:05,350  
they had to board up the windows  
and put barbed wire around.

762

00:44:05,350 --> 00:44:07,430  
We only had one entrance.

763

00:44:07,430 --> 00:44:09,490

One entrance, one exit.

764

00:44:09,490 --> 00:44:12,130

And you couldn't go  
out anyplace else.

765

00:44:12,130 --> 00:44:13,600

And this was a ghetto.

766

00:44:13,600 --> 00:44:16,180

And you couldn't  
know-- nothing came in.

767

00:44:16,180 --> 00:44:18,070

You couldn't go in  
and you couldn't

768

00:44:18,070 --> 00:44:20,830

go out and buy something  
because you have

769

00:44:20,830 --> 00:44:23,590

no right to be alive there.

770

00:44:23,590 --> 00:44:26,840

Only there for temporary in  
the ghetto you could live.

771

00:44:26,840 --> 00:44:30,130

And this is how a ghetto  
was created in Poland

772

00:44:30,130 --> 00:44:31,510

by the Germans.

773

00:44:31,510 --> 00:44:37,450

So when we hear that the people  
in Harlem lived in ghetto,

774

00:44:37,450 --> 00:44:42,060

it's a joke for us.

775  
00:44:42,060 --> 00:44:43,430  
Now I'm going to go further--

776  
00:44:43,430 --> 00:44:51,200

777  
00:44:51,200 --> 00:44:56,030  
I'm going to go further  
to the way before the war.

778  
00:44:56,030 --> 00:45:01,550  
When I came back home from  
the German Polish War,

779  
00:45:01,550 --> 00:45:03,935  
I was shot through my leg.

780  
00:45:03,935 --> 00:45:06,310  
And then we were still-- the  
whole family was still home.

781  
00:45:06,310 --> 00:45:10,070  
And we were thinking that  
maybe everybody had hope.

782  
00:45:10,070 --> 00:45:13,940

783  
00:45:13,940 --> 00:45:17,090  
In the beginning, of  
course, they didn't shoot.

784  
00:45:17,090 --> 00:45:23,810  
But they gave you other  
problems for you since you

785  
00:45:23,810 --> 00:45:26,930  
couldn't-- they were beatings,  
kicking from the streets,

786  
00:45:26,930 --> 00:45:28,660

everybody--

787

00:45:28,660 --> 00:45:32,360

if two three people were  
standing and talking,

788

00:45:32,360 --> 00:45:34,190

so they called away--

789

00:45:34,190 --> 00:45:36,840

what did you talk about.

790

00:45:36,840 --> 00:45:39,160

So he said something.

791

00:45:39,160 --> 00:45:41,300

And then they called  
the other guy away,

792

00:45:41,300 --> 00:45:43,630

if this is the same  
thing what he said.

793

00:45:43,630 --> 00:45:49,360

And if it was the same thing,  
you can't imagine the beatings.

794

00:45:49,360 --> 00:45:52,070

And so this is the way they--

795

00:45:52,070 --> 00:45:55,245

when two three people  
met-- still saying

796

00:45:55,245 --> 00:45:56,620

there was no ghetto  
at that time.

797

00:45:56,620 --> 00:45:59,440

In the beginning, I'm talking.

798

00:45:59,440 --> 00:46:02,350

They met, say, in the square.

799

00:46:02,350 --> 00:46:06,460

Before they were starting  
to talk about anything.

800

00:46:06,460 --> 00:46:07,810

They made up a subject.

801

00:46:07,810 --> 00:46:09,520

We are talking,  
let's say, today we

802

00:46:09,520 --> 00:46:11,970

are talking about  
frozen potatoes,

803

00:46:11,970 --> 00:46:18,470

that a train load of  
potatoes got frozen

804

00:46:18,470 --> 00:46:21,040

and they shipped it  
today to the brewery.

805

00:46:21,040 --> 00:46:25,600

Such things were made up so  
when those Germans will call you

806

00:46:25,600 --> 00:46:28,310

away-- what did you talk about.

807

00:46:28,310 --> 00:46:31,660

So everybody will know that  
we were talking about this.

808

00:46:31,660 --> 00:46:34,600

This is the way they  
are in the beginning.

809

00:46:34,600 --> 00:46:37,870

And of course, later on--

810

00:46:37,870 --> 00:46:40,240

I'm talking about  
before the ghetto.

811

00:46:40,240 --> 00:46:42,550

And later on when they--

812

00:46:42,550 --> 00:46:46,570

of course, Jews couldn't go in.

813

00:46:46,570 --> 00:46:51,910

On signs in the taverns  
written Jews and dogs

814

00:46:51,910 --> 00:46:55,930

prohibited, not allowed,  
in all the taverns.

815

00:46:55,930 --> 00:47:03,730

And then later, you had to wear  
the arm band, the [INAUDIBLE]..

816

00:47:03,730 --> 00:47:07,210

And the reason for that  
that, whoever had this

817

00:47:07,210 --> 00:47:09,580

couldn't walk on  
the main streets.

818

00:47:09,580 --> 00:47:11,370

If you wanted to  
go somewhere, you

819

00:47:11,370 --> 00:47:15,280

had to go behind the buildings.

820

00:47:15,280 --> 00:47:17,892

So not through the main street  
where the Germans are walking

821

00:47:17,892 --> 00:47:18,850

or something like that.

822

00:47:18,850 --> 00:47:22,910

823

00:47:22,910 --> 00:47:24,700

And this was in the beginning.

824

00:47:24,700 --> 00:47:28,990

We thought this is  
not the worst thing.

825

00:47:28,990 --> 00:47:32,800

As long as they  
will let us live,

826

00:47:32,800 --> 00:47:36,900

people are doing some  
business, some smuggling.

827

00:47:36,900 --> 00:47:39,340

Everybody had to do  
something in order

828

00:47:39,340 --> 00:47:43,810

to live, to get  
some kind of income.

829

00:47:43,810 --> 00:47:47,470

And one time--

830

00:47:47,470 --> 00:47:49,420

I think I told you that.

831

00:47:49,420 --> 00:47:54,010

I was going on a bicycle from my  
town-- this was a small town--

832

00:47:54,010 --> 00:47:56,350

to the larger town to Tarnow.

833

00:47:56,350 --> 00:47:57,730



Tarnow was a large town.

834

00:47:57,730 --> 00:48:00,290

There was a huge  
Jewish community.

835

00:48:00,290 --> 00:48:00,790

Huge.

836

00:48:00,790 --> 00:48:04,480

There were about  
20,000 people there.

837

00:48:04,480 --> 00:48:07,090

I mean, Jewish people.

838

00:48:07,090 --> 00:48:11,330

And whatever you brought  
in there from here,

839

00:48:11,330 --> 00:48:14,990

from this small town to the  
big town, you made some money.

840

00:48:14,990 --> 00:48:17,560

And this is the way we  
lived in the beginning

841

00:48:17,560 --> 00:48:18,550

before the ghettos.

842

00:48:18,550 --> 00:48:22,120

But when the ghetto was on,  
all these things stopped.

843

00:48:22,120 --> 00:48:23,750

You couldn't do that.

844

00:48:23,750 --> 00:48:28,810

So one evening, I was caught.

845

00:48:28,810 --> 00:48:33,890

I had about maybe  
25 pounds of sugar.

846  
00:48:33,890 --> 00:48:38,380  
If you took 25 pounds of sugar  
on the bicycle from this town

847  
00:48:38,380 --> 00:48:43,430  
and you went through  
about 25 miles further

848  
00:48:43,430 --> 00:48:48,050  
to the bigger town, you could  
make some money to live a week.

849  
00:48:48,050 --> 00:48:50,320  
And so I was caught.

850  
00:48:50,320 --> 00:48:53,848  
I was I ran right into  
the Gestapo in Tarnow.

851  
00:48:53,848 --> 00:48:54,640  
And they caught me.

852  
00:48:54,640 --> 00:48:55,750  
What do you have here?

853  
00:48:55,750 --> 00:48:56,770  
I said, sugar.

854  
00:48:56,770 --> 00:49:02,260  
Sugar was a product where  
the Germans gave it--

855  
00:49:02,260 --> 00:49:09,460  
they opened that special stores  
where you could exchange for X.

856  
00:49:09,460 --> 00:49:12,360  
Now the farmers would  
bring you the X,

857

00:49:12,360 --> 00:49:17,070

and you will give them  
so much sugar for the X.

858

00:49:17,070 --> 00:49:21,390

So when I was caught,  
I said I am a farmer.

859

00:49:21,390 --> 00:49:24,420

860

00:49:24,420 --> 00:49:26,550

I gave this sugar--

861

00:49:26,550 --> 00:49:31,120

I'm giving this sugar  
for X, and here I am.

862

00:49:31,120 --> 00:49:36,250

They took away the sugar  
and put me in jail in town.

863

00:49:36,250 --> 00:49:38,720

Nobody knew that I am in jail.

864

00:49:38,720 --> 00:49:40,620

So I was sitting there 24 hours.

865

00:49:40,620 --> 00:49:43,320

Somebody was going out from  
daylight, scribbled a note

866

00:49:43,320 --> 00:49:46,500

and gave it to a friend, and  
the friend came in right away

867

00:49:46,500 --> 00:49:48,840

and brought me something to eat.

868

00:49:48,840 --> 00:49:51,960

And two days later,  
they took me out.

869  
00:49:51,960 --> 00:49:55,440  
And I was registered that--

870  
00:49:55,440 --> 00:49:56,880  
they're sending me to a camp.

871  
00:49:56,880 --> 00:49:58,530  
That time, was no  
concentration camp.

872  
00:49:58,530 --> 00:50:03,420  
But it was arbeitslager,  
working camps.

873  
00:50:03,420 --> 00:50:06,290  
They took me there into--

874  
00:50:06,290 --> 00:50:09,870  
and I should come and register.

875  
00:50:09,870 --> 00:50:11,980  
They will ship me there.

876  
00:50:11,980 --> 00:50:13,740  
But they let me go first.

877  
00:50:13,740 --> 00:50:16,050  
So the other German  
says, don't let him go.

878  
00:50:16,050 --> 00:50:18,300  
He is not going  
to come back here.

879  
00:50:18,300 --> 00:50:21,030  
I said, oh, no, I'll  
come back right away.

880  
00:50:21,030 --> 00:50:22,860  
If you want me to go  
to the camp, I'll go.

881  
00:50:22,860 --> 00:50:24,530  
To arbeitslager I'll go.

882  
00:50:24,530 --> 00:50:26,430  
And so I didn't go, of course.

883  
00:50:26,430 --> 00:50:28,470  
And they took away my bicycle.

884  
00:50:28,470 --> 00:50:29,700  
They took away my bicycle.

885  
00:50:29,700 --> 00:50:35,370  
They left me-- like you take  
away today a car of somebody.

886  
00:50:35,370 --> 00:50:37,640  
This was my main transportation.

887  
00:50:37,640 --> 00:50:41,330  
And this is my main  
business at that time.

888  
00:50:41,330 --> 00:50:45,730  
And of course, the  
beatings is impossible.

889  
00:50:45,730 --> 00:50:47,990  
He will say, look there.

890  
00:50:47,990 --> 00:50:51,200  
And he takes with  
his fist bigger--

891  
00:50:51,200 --> 00:50:53,580  
he had big gold rings there.

892  
00:50:53,580 --> 00:50:57,430  
And he hits me like this  
and says, did you see that?

893

00:50:57,430 --> 00:51:00,600

So at a split moment, you  
don't know what to say.

894

00:51:00,600 --> 00:51:02,010

You say you didn't see--

895

00:51:02,010 --> 00:51:03,240

I didn't see, I said.

896

00:51:03,240 --> 00:51:04,530

You didn't see?

897

00:51:04,530 --> 00:51:05,570

Look there.

898

00:51:05,570 --> 00:51:07,260

And he gives me on the side.

899

00:51:07,260 --> 00:51:07,950

Did you see?

900

00:51:07,950 --> 00:51:09,570

I said, yes, I saw.

901

00:51:09,570 --> 00:51:10,700

What did you see?

902

00:51:10,700 --> 00:51:12,870

And this way and this way.

903

00:51:12,870 --> 00:51:14,930

And there were three of them.

904

00:51:14,930 --> 00:51:17,970

And one got tired, the  
other one started off--

905

00:51:17,970 --> 00:51:19,710

until they knocked me out.

906

00:51:19,710 --> 00:51:24,750

And I had a small patches  
with me at that time

907

00:51:24,750 --> 00:51:28,080

I bought for home--

908

00:51:28,080 --> 00:51:31,500

a bottle of vinegar  
and a couple pounds

909

00:51:31,500 --> 00:51:38,550

of onions because in the smaller  
towns, you couldn't get it.

910

00:51:38,550 --> 00:51:42,880

So they took this bottle vinegar  
and open it and pour it on me.

911

00:51:42,880 --> 00:51:47,070

And I was so cut up all over  
that is that this bottle--

912

00:51:47,070 --> 00:51:49,730

this vinegar woke me up.

913

00:51:49,730 --> 00:51:52,020

And they said, go.

914

00:51:52,020 --> 00:51:54,570

And I started to run.

915

00:51:54,570 --> 00:51:57,510

And they took a machine  
gun and after me.

916

00:51:57,510 --> 00:51:59,130

I felt the bullets--

917

00:51:59,130 --> 00:52:04,020

the heat from the bullets  
going straight next to my ear.

918  
00:52:04,020 --> 00:52:04,860  
But I survived.

919  
00:52:04,860 --> 00:52:10,670  
I was so beaten up that I went  
up with two broken jaw bones.

920  
00:52:10,670 --> 00:52:13,090  
And can we jump  
ahead a little bit.

921  
00:52:13,090 --> 00:52:18,360  
I want to know what it was  
like for you to be on your own

922  
00:52:18,360 --> 00:52:22,320  
in the fields toward  
the end of the war.

923  
00:52:22,320 --> 00:52:29,850  
How was that different from  
what you experienced before?

924  
00:52:29,850 --> 00:52:31,750  
I'll go back when I reached--

925  
00:52:31,750 --> 00:52:35,220  
when I escaped from  
the train and I

926  
00:52:35,220 --> 00:52:41,070  
reached my area where I  
was living before the war.

927  
00:52:41,070 --> 00:52:48,240  
First of all, I went into  
a farm and to a peasant.

928  
00:52:48,240 --> 00:52:53,100  
And he was-- so you  
are still alive?



929

00:52:53,100 --> 00:52:54,930

I said, yes, I am still alive.

930

00:52:54,930 --> 00:52:56,880

So he said, good.

931

00:52:56,880 --> 00:52:58,680

The Russians are coming.

932

00:52:58,680 --> 00:53:00,960

They might be maybe tomorrow.

933

00:53:00,960 --> 00:53:03,540

And you will be safe.

934

00:53:03,540 --> 00:53:06,970

I thought that an angel  
is speaking to me.

935

00:53:06,970 --> 00:53:08,883

And he says, go up  
on the attic there,

936

00:53:08,883 --> 00:53:10,425

and I will give you  
something to eat.

937

00:53:10,425 --> 00:53:16,140

And he brought me up a plate  
of milk and some macaroni,

938

00:53:16,140 --> 00:53:17,430

a piece of bread.

939

00:53:17,430 --> 00:53:20,770

It was just mom disguised.

940

00:53:20,770 --> 00:53:26,010

And this guy-- the  
next day he says, run,

941

00:53:26,010 --> 00:53:29,610  
because the Germans are looking,  
going around to the farmers

942  
00:53:29,610 --> 00:53:31,290  
and picking up cattle--

943  
00:53:31,290 --> 00:53:33,710  
because the front  
was standing about,

944  
00:53:33,710 --> 00:53:36,810  
let's say, 10 miles away.

945  
00:53:36,810 --> 00:53:40,470  
They were picking up  
cattle for slaughter.

946  
00:53:40,470 --> 00:53:44,680  
And if they will catch you here,  
they are going to kill me--

947  
00:53:44,680 --> 00:53:45,970  
the whole thing.

948  
00:53:45,970 --> 00:53:46,800  
So all right.

949  
00:53:46,800 --> 00:53:49,650  
I said, I'm going to go  
in the evening, I'll go.

950  
00:53:49,650 --> 00:53:50,790  
He says, no, no, no.

951  
00:53:50,790 --> 00:53:52,140  
You must go right now.

952  
00:53:52,140 --> 00:53:55,340

953  
00:53:55,340 --> 00:53:58,640

I said, if I go out now,  
somebody will see me

954  
00:53:58,640 --> 00:54:00,610  
and they will kill me.

955  
00:54:00,610 --> 00:54:02,360  
This was already in the area.

956  
00:54:02,360 --> 00:54:04,740  
But I was afraid  
there was somebody

957  
00:54:04,740 --> 00:54:10,150  
who notice to the police  
that my brother was hiding.

958  
00:54:10,150 --> 00:54:13,720  
And my brother was cut--

959  
00:54:13,720 --> 00:54:16,180  
at that time, cut  
down with a cousin.

960  
00:54:16,180 --> 00:54:19,710  
And also, a farmer was killed  
with my brother together.

961  
00:54:19,710 --> 00:54:21,130  
And I was afraid for this guy.

962  
00:54:21,130 --> 00:54:23,380  
If he will see me,  
he will see there's

963  
00:54:23,380 --> 00:54:28,670  
another witness is alive, and  
he might be the same thing.

964  
00:54:28,670 --> 00:54:31,750  
So I said, look, I'm going to  
go out as soon it gets dark.

965

00:54:31,750 --> 00:54:34,330

He says, no, you must go out no.

966

00:54:34,330 --> 00:54:35,860

So I just jumped out.

967

00:54:35,860 --> 00:54:40,780

And there was high corn  
growing next to his house.

968

00:54:40,780 --> 00:54:45,160

I went in into that corn, and I  
was sitting there for a while.

969

00:54:45,160 --> 00:54:49,240

And I went into look was  
sitting somewhere in the forest.

970

00:54:49,240 --> 00:54:52,108

I went in into the forest.

971

00:54:52,108 --> 00:54:53,650

When you're on  
forest, you would just

972

00:54:53,650 --> 00:55:02,090

go into the most grown in area  
where nobody should see you.

973

00:55:02,090 --> 00:55:07,547

And-- [INAUDIBLE]

974

00:55:07,547 --> 00:55:10,290

975

00:55:10,290 --> 00:55:12,200

And you sit.

976

00:55:12,200 --> 00:55:12,890

Sit.

977

00:55:12,890 --> 00:55:14,570  
How long can you sit?

978  
00:55:14,570 --> 00:55:15,760  
You sit.

979  
00:55:15,760 --> 00:55:17,590  
And you don't have  
anything to read,

980  
00:55:17,590 --> 00:55:19,640  
and you don't have  
anything to do.

981  
00:55:19,640 --> 00:55:25,587  
And the horse fly were  
drawn in from the sweating,

982  
00:55:25,587 --> 00:55:26,170  
from the heat.

983  
00:55:26,170 --> 00:55:28,220  
It was very hot that time.

984  
00:55:28,220 --> 00:55:32,360  
And the red ants were  
coming in from the bottom

985  
00:55:32,360 --> 00:55:36,650  
and the big ants and they  
were biting you and the flies.

986  
00:55:36,650 --> 00:55:39,960  
And you were just  
shaking your head.

987  
00:55:39,960 --> 00:55:44,280  
You almost got crazy, meshuggah,  
just shaking your head.

988  
00:55:44,280 --> 00:55:46,070  
I said to myself, oh, my God.

989

00:55:46,070 --> 00:55:48,380

I escaped from this  
concentration camp.

990

00:55:48,380 --> 00:55:51,890

If the war ends, I'll go  
out a crazy guy because I

991

00:55:51,890 --> 00:55:53,880

couldn't-- even if  
they didn't bite me,

992

00:55:53,880 --> 00:55:56,310

I already kept shaking my head.

993

00:55:56,310 --> 00:55:57,830

And there was no water?

994

00:55:57,830 --> 00:55:58,540

No water.

995

00:55:58,540 --> 00:55:59,110

No water.

996

00:55:59,110 --> 00:56:00,940

Where, water?

997

00:56:00,940 --> 00:56:03,110

And so I said--

998

00:56:03,110 --> 00:56:05,390

I was sitting there a day.

999

00:56:05,390 --> 00:56:08,050

And you have to eat something.

1000

00:56:08,050 --> 00:56:10,450

So went out into--

1001

00:56:10,450 --> 00:56:12,830

there were those black berries.

1002  
00:56:12,830 --> 00:56:14,880  
And I ate myself up  
with black berries

1003  
00:56:14,880 --> 00:56:17,510  
and I have a piece of bread.

1004  
00:56:17,510 --> 00:56:23,000  
And I was vomiting later  
father I could see out

1005  
00:56:23,000 --> 00:56:28,130  
because I had on an empty  
stomach, these black berries

1006  
00:56:28,130 --> 00:56:29,420  
in the stomach.

1007  
00:56:29,420 --> 00:56:31,520  
So I said, well,  
it's no way of doing.

1008  
00:56:31,520 --> 00:56:33,420  
I'm going to look for--

1009  
00:56:33,420 --> 00:56:35,450  
I know that there are,  
some in another area,

1010  
00:56:35,450 --> 00:56:38,720  
there's some Jews  
hiding in the forest.

1011  
00:56:38,720 --> 00:56:40,910  
And I was going out there.

1012  
00:56:40,910 --> 00:56:48,650  
I took a rake and a bundle  
of grass on my shoulders

1013  
00:56:48,650 --> 00:56:53,140

so that I should  
look like a farmer.

1014  
00:56:53,140 --> 00:56:55,310  
And I was going into  
that other forest

1015  
00:56:55,310 --> 00:56:59,260  
where I knew that there  
are some Jews hiding.

1016  
00:56:59,260 --> 00:57:02,170  
And I went over there  
and I was standing on a--

1017  
00:57:02,170 --> 00:57:04,880  
called the fire zone  
where it was cleared,

1018  
00:57:04,880 --> 00:57:07,580  
so that when that  
fire breaks out here,

1019  
00:57:07,580 --> 00:57:09,470  
it couldn't go over this side.

1020  
00:57:09,470 --> 00:57:13,090  
It was a clear pass like.

1021  
00:57:13,090 --> 00:57:15,940  
And I was standing and  
watching, maybe somebody

1022  
00:57:15,940 --> 00:57:17,930  
is going to go through  
and I'm going to see.

1023  
00:57:17,930 --> 00:57:19,990  
And I was standing  
about an hour.

1024  
00:57:19,990 --> 00:57:22,250  
And I saw one run through.



1025  
00:57:22,250 --> 00:57:25,760  
I started to run and calling.

1026  
00:57:25,760 --> 00:57:28,310  
And he thought that  
this is a German.

1027  
00:57:28,310 --> 00:57:29,480  
He didn't hear me.

1028  
00:57:29,480 --> 00:57:36,020  
He was running so fast that it  
was impossible to catch him.

1029  
00:57:36,020 --> 00:57:38,280  
But I caught up with him.

1030  
00:57:38,280 --> 00:57:39,830  
And so I came over there.

1031  
00:57:39,830 --> 00:57:45,450  
It was a mother, two brothers--

1032  
00:57:45,450 --> 00:57:50,100  
three brothers, and then  
another woman was there.

1033  
00:57:50,100 --> 00:57:57,540  
And they were living there  
in that part of the forest.

1034  
00:57:57,540 --> 00:58:02,970  
And so being there, I went  
out at night to somebody.

1035  
00:58:02,970 --> 00:58:09,330  
And I got bread who I  
knew from before the war.

1036  
00:58:09,330 --> 00:58:11,810  
Gave me a bed at night.

1037  
00:58:11,810 --> 00:58:12,720  
And--

1038  
00:58:12,720 --> 00:58:14,550  
We have to stop  
for a few minutes.

1039  
00:58:14,550 --> 00:58:16,320  
[INAUDIBLE] OK.

1040  
00:58:16,320 --> 00:58:17,640  
Yeah.

1041  
00:58:17,640 --> 00:58:20,120  
We'll do the rest of it.

1042  
00:58:20,120 --> 00:58:23,000